THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Some cases have come to light where the officer had drawn office equipment and they did not return them while leaving MTNL. Such officers have been instructed to return them, failing which necessary action will be taken against these officers to recover the cost of the equipment drawn by them.

Rent rebate on non-functioning of telephone

1921. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any rent rebate is admissible under the rules on account of non-functioning of telephone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this rebate is automatically admissible; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. It is admissible in case of MTNL and BSNL, the two Public Sector Service providers.

(b) As per existing instructions, rebate in rental for telephone and telex services, leased lines and junction lines in use for a PABX/ PBX, can be permitted when these services for a subscriber remain interrupted continuously for 7 days or more due to departmental reasons.

If the local telephone services remain suspended/interrupted continuously for over 14 days for departmental reasons, a full month's rental can be waived at the MTNL/BSNL's own initiative, without waiting for a representation from the subscriber.

(c) Yes, Sir. The length of the interruption has to be verified by the MTNL/BSNL.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.